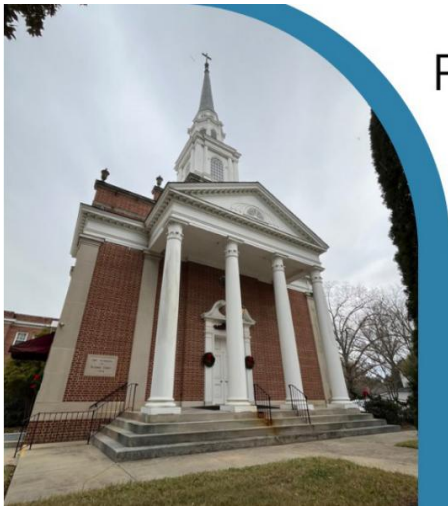




FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA

***"To grow in faith, love and fellowship
as we serve God and all of our community."***

We are a bunch of seekers on a journey. We learn together and we serve together. We believe that God is love and that all persons are created in God's own image. We are people from all walks of life with varied life experiences doing our best to live out God's love in the world. So truly **"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey you are welcome here."**



Newsletter | October/November 2026

The Pastor's Pen

The Interim Pastor's Pen

On the week of October 4, I had the opportunity to be with our Ministry Interns, Landon Cord, Maddy Ubry, and Eric Barr to visit several of our homebound members, Mott Arey, Shirley McNeal and Frances Wensil to celebrate Holy Community with them. It has been my privilege to get to know the Catawba College Choral Scholars and Ministry Interns as I attend worship here at First Church and on Tuesdays' Catawba Chapel Services in the Hoke Musical Revue at 11 am and when they attend WOW Bible Study on Wednesdays at Catawba President's House with Dr. and Mrs. David Nelson. Parking is available at the President's House for any who would like to attend Tuesdays' Chapel Services at 11 AM in Hoke Building Musical Revue. Let me know if you would like to attend with me.

Also on Thursday, October 8, Catawba students, faculty and staff landscaped and painted parking lot lines at First Church in response to Catawba's Day of Service. On October 20, Dr. Ken Clapp will be coordinating a meal for RHM Shelter Guests with Catawba College Students and First Volunteers.

Our goal in our Transition is to be a campus congregation at Catawba College. This month God has given us a great opportunity to refocus ministry with and among the students of Catawba. It is a great opportunity for us to have Catawba Homecoming at First UCC on November 1st, as we celebrate Catawba's 175th Anniversary and First Church 130th Anniversary during 11 am Worship Service, followed by a photo on the outside steps in front of the Church at 12:15 pm, followed by a Complimentary Buffet Luncheon at LaCava Restaurant for the first 100 guests who register on-line or the Complimentary Buffet meal in the Fellowship Hall of First Church for Catawba Students and other guests. LaCava Restaurant, the first building for Old First Reformed Church, is on the corner of West Horah Street and South Church Street. If you have trouble registering your name for the complimentary lunch, please call the church office and we will register for you.

It is with great appreciation that the Complimentary Buffet Dinners are provided by Catawba College with other donors and the opportunity to celebrate a Joint Homecoming, observing the 130th Anniversary of First UCC and 175th Anniversary of Catawba College on November 1st, All Saints Sunday.

Rev. Larry Bolick

October 4 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 and Psalm 19

Isaiah 5:1-7 and Psalm 80:7-15

Philippians 3:4b-14

Matthew 21:33-46

October 11 Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 32:1-14 and Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23

Isaiah 25:1-9 and Psalm 23

Philippians 4:1-9

Matthew 22:1-14

October 18 Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 33:12-23 and Psalm 99

Isaiah 45:1-7 and Psalm 96:1-9, (10-13)

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Matthew 22:15-22

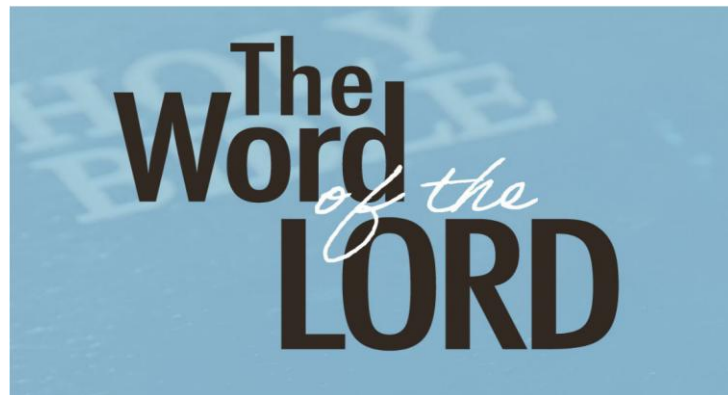
October 25 Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

Deuteronomy 34:1-12 and Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17

Leviticus 19:1-2m 15-18 and Psalm 1

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Matthew 22:34-46



October Calendar

Date	Time	Event
4	10:00am	Choir Practice
	11:00am	Worship Service
5	6:30pm	Circle 7 Meeting
6	6:30pm	Circle 6 Meeting
7	5:30pm	WOW Bible Study-President's House/Catawba
8	9:00am	Catawba Day of Serving
11	10:00am	Choir Practice
	11:00am	Worship Service
13	10:30am	Meals on Wheels Deliveries
14	5:30pm	WOW Bible Study-President's House/Catawba
18	10:00am	Choir Practice
	11:00am	Worship Service/Foundation Sunday
20	1:00pm	Bless These Stitches
	5:30pm	RHM Shelter Meal
21	11:30am	PrimeTimers @ Dr. Ken Clapp's House
	5:30pm	WOW Bible Study-President's House/Catawba
25	10:00am	Choir Practice
	11:00am	Worship Service
27	10:30am	Meals on Wheels Deliveries
28	5:30pm	WOW Bible Study-President's House/Catawba

Weekly Scripture References | November Lectionary

November 1 All Saints Day/Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

Joshua 3:7-17 and Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37

Micah 3:5-12 and Psalm 43

Philippians 3:4b-14

Matthew 21:33-46

All Saints Day

Revelation 7:9-17 and Psalm 34:1-10, 22

1 John 3:1-3

Matthew 5:1-12

November 8 Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Joshua 24:1-3a and Psalm 78:1-7

Wis. Of Solomon 6:12-16 or Amos 5:18-24 and Wis of Sol 6:17-20 or Ps 70

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Matthew 25:1-3

November 15 Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Judges 4:1-7 and Psalm 123

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 and Psalm 90:1-8, (9-11), 12

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Matthew 25:14-30

November 22 Reign of Christ Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 and Psalm 100 or Psalm 95:1-7a

Ephesians 1:15-23

Matthew 25:31-46

November 29 First Sunday of Advent (Year B)

Isaiah 64:1-9

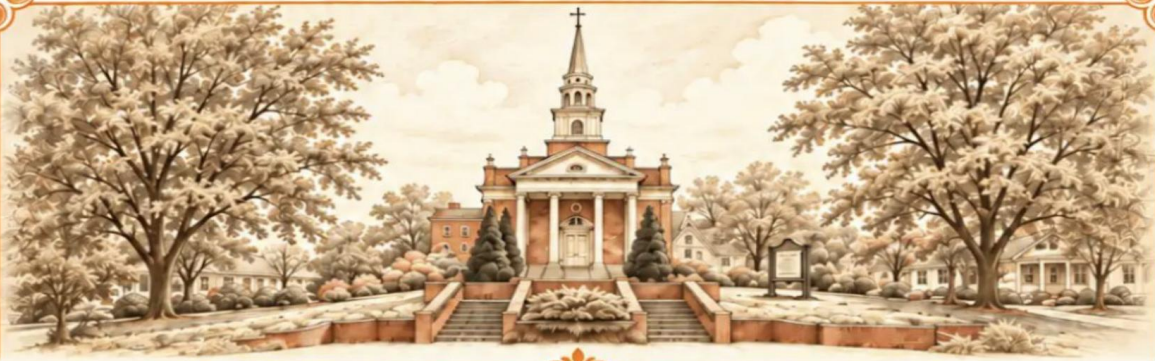
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Mark 13:24-37

November Calendar

Date	Time	Event
1	10:00am	Joint Choir Practice
	11:00am	Catawba Homecoming @ 1st UCC
2	6:00pm	Circle 7 Meeting
3	6:30pm	Circle 6 Meeting
4	5:30pm	WOW Bible Study-President's House/Catawba
8	10:00am	Choir Practice
	11:00am	Worship Service/Foundation Sunday
10	10:30am	Meals on Wheels Deliveries
11	5:30pm	WOW Bible Study-President's House/Catawba
12	11:30am	PrimeTimers
15	10:00am	Choir Practice
	11:00am	Worship Service-Reservations for One Church
		One Child Star Tree Gifts
17	1:00pm	Bless These Stitches
18	5:30pm	WOW Bible Study-President's House/Catawba
22	10:00am	Choir Practice
	11:00am	Worship Service
	12:00pm	Feasting on the Fourth/ Decorating the Church
24	10:30am	Meals on Wheels Deliveries
29	10:00am	Choir Practice
	11:00am	Worship - First Sunday of Advent



Join Us for
HOMECOMING WORSHIP
celebrating

**175 years of Catawba College
and
130 years of First United Church of Christ**

**Sunday, November 1, 2026
11:00 am Worship**

**First United Church of Christ
207 W Horah St, Salisbury, NC**

led by
Rev. Kendra Joyner-Miller
Rev. Larry Bolick
Rev. Dr. David Nelson, preaching

following the service
Homecoming Photo
on the church steps



The first 100 guests to RSVP are invited to a complimentary
Lunch Reception at La Cava Restaurant
*which occupies the original sanctuary of First Church
at 329 S Church St, Salisbury, NC*

Please RSVP by Oct 25
to Rhonda Smith at office@1stucc.org
or 704-633-2723

Take a Blessing, Leave a Blessing, Be a Blessing

The Blessing Pantry located near the driveway into the parking lot on Church Street is an outreach to the neighboring community. Members of the Mission Committee continue to monitor the box and add items at least once a week, but demand is great and it is usually emptied in a couple of days.

How can you participate?

Bring your contributions to the Church office during office hours. You can also add items directly to the Blessing Box or make a monetary contribution to help the Mission Committee to keep the pantry supplied.

Thank you for supporting this important effort to be an active presence in our neighborhood every day of the week!

Little Red Wagon

The items donated to the Little Red Wagon are given to Rowan Helping Ministries Food Pantry. Items may be placed in the Little Red Wagon or dropped off at the First UCC Church office during weekly office hours.

Suggested Items for the Blessing Pantry	Suggested Items for the Little Red Wagon
Canned meats (chicken, tuna, ham, Spam) Hearty soups with pull tab Chef Boyardee canned meals Canned fruits and vegetables Peanut butter and jelly, bread Dried goods (noodles, cereals, beans) Personal hygiene products Baby care items (wipes, snack pouches) Can openers Spices Only nonperishable items.	All canned food Non-perishable foods



The 5-Alive Fund helps neighbors in the Salisbury-Rowan community who are facing financial crisis through Rowan Helping Ministries.

The fund also serves our own church family by providing support to First UCC families and individuals in times of need.

Over the past 12 months, 5-Alive has helped several members of our church community. None of this would be possible without your generous contributions

Any questions about 5 Alive can be sent to the church office or directly to Ann Teague.

Bless These Stitches

Members of Bless These Stitches meet monthly on the 3rd Tuesday day of the month at 1:00pm. Items are available outside the church office.

If you are planning to give an item as a personal gift or for personal use, suggested donation amounts are listed below.

We now include adding hats and scarves to our blessing pantry during the cold winter months. If you knit or crochet, want to learn, or want to share in the fellowship with other needleworkers, join us.

\$3.00 ... Dishcloths

\$5.00 ... Small Hats

\$10.00 ... Small Shawls

\$20.00 ... Small Throws

\$10.00 ... Scarves

\$10.00 ... Large Hats

\$20.00 ... Large Shawls

\$35.00 ... Large Throws

Prime Timers

The Primetimers will meet at Dr. Ken Clapp's home, 231 Confederated Ave. in The Barn, behind his home for a deliciously prepared meal on Wednesday, October 21 for lunch at 11:30 am and an update on Catawba College. Those who attend were invited to give a love-offering to Rowan Helping Ministries for the Shelter Guests Meals. They

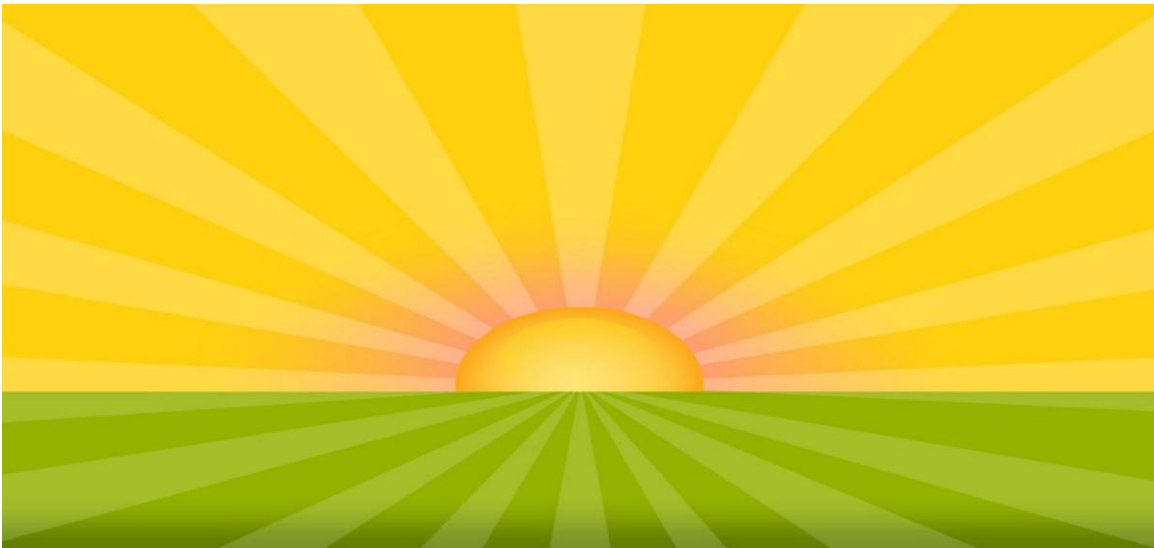
Primetimers will meet on Thursday, November 12 at 11:30 am for a chicken & dumplings, slaw, green beans and desserts menu, prepared by Sarah Schiemann and Carolyn Cline. Register with Rev. Bolick or Rhonda Smith in the church Office by Monday, November 7. The cost is \$10 per person donation. The program will be on Ruffy-Holmes Senior Center Services by Ms. Bonnie Jones, Deputy Director and Marketing.

Save the date for Thursday, December 10 for a Joint Meeting with the J. O. Y. Seniors of Mt. Zion UCC, China to join us for a Christmas Program in our Fellowship Hall. The menu for that day will be deliciously baked chicken and vegetables and desserts. Please let Rev. Bolick or Rhonda Smith is you plan to attend by Monday, December 7.

Rev. Larry Bolick, Coordinator for Primetimers

Missions Committee

The Mission Committee met on Thursday, August 13. In August, Rebecca Wrights purchased food for The Blessing Pantry, Linda Hauze in September and Larry Bolick in October. Presently, the church is reimbursing our purchasers \$200 for the Blessing Pantry each month. The Little Red Wagon will be collecting food/snack items for RHM Food for Thought School Backpack Program. Rev. Dr. Ken Clapp is planning for a RHM Shelter Meal with Catawba Student Volunteers in September or October. Neighbors In Need will be collected on Sunday, October 4 on World Communion Sunday for Council for American Indian Ministries and Local Church Innovative Mission Grants. The committee approved the application for another First Foundation Grant for 2026-27 Calendar year. The Annual Report on Mission Committee was reviewed and was approved to be printed in the Annual Church Reports. The next meeting will be in October.



Sunshine Moments @ 1st Church

Miles Funderburk

First UCC Choral Scholar

Hello, My name is Miles Funderburk, son of Chris Funderburk and Felicia Funderburk. I am from Gastonia, North Carolina. I am a Sophomore Music Education student at Catawba. I love playing instruments. For the Catawba College Marching Band I play Mellophone, where I am the High Brass Section Leader. I also play the French Horn, for several things like preludes for church and Chapel services, the Catawba College Wind Ensemble, and other performances. I am a captain of the Esports team and serve as a leader in other settings as well. I love to bake and cook, make and listen to music, play games, clean, learn about and teach. I chose Catawba because the Pillars of Catawba align with my vocation and it feels like home to me. The campus and environment suits me and the Music Faculty make getting a degree enjoyable.

First UCC Celebrates 130 Years in 2026

Bentha and I began our ministry at First United Church of Christ in the summer of 1992. Paul Probst, Chairman of the Search Committee, assisted in the transition with primary objective of securing a house—our first. Our home was located behind the church, making my daily presence at the church an easy accomplishment.

In 1992, First UCC had a membership of approximately 360 members on roll with about 160 in attendance on Sunday. In addition to the regular Sunday service, the church had an active Sunday School of all grades, an active youth group, and a daily preschool. Periodically, the church had special events, the most notable, the yearly Lenten suppers, and Christmas specialties, as well as their ever-popular country ham suppers.

In addition to the minister, the staff consisted of Carolyn Cline, church secretary; Cindy Pribble, choir director; and Susan Trivette, organist. Within a short period of time, Debbie Johnson was added as resident youth minister.

One of the highlights of my ministry was the incorporation of chancel drama in various Sunday morning worship services and annual Lenten suppers. First UCC possessed an amazing presence of talented members, utilizing their skills in a variety of ways in both in church and the Salisbury community. The dramas were well received, not only by the congregation, but also the wider community. A special thanks should go The Salisbury Post which generously gave coverage in promotions. Additional thanks are extended to Dr. Frances Wentz, a retired member of the Catawba College faculty who strongly supported the dramas with financial assistance in costume procurement. A long-time friend, Nick Bishop, though not a member of our church, contributed his time and talent in building various sets for the dramas.

After thirteen years as senior minister, I retired in the summer of 2005. Our years at First UCC were marked with many challenges with outcomes accomplished by the congregation of unique families and individuals. These years ended with gratitude and honor.

Respectfully submitted, Reverend David L. Crook, 1992–2005

Community News

There was a free showing of “The Path Forward: An Israeli & Palestinian Peacemaking Dialogue” on Saturday, October 17, 2026 at 6 pm, Norell Theater, 155 E. Fisher St., Salisbury, NC. Following the show, there will be panel conversation about peace, empathy, justice, and reconciliation with Hatem El-Sayegh, Ph.D., a Christian peacebuilding from Gaze, Palestine and a longtime Atlanta Resident, Sara Akkus, a Muslim IT professional originally from Turkey and now living in Charlott, and David Post, J. D., a member of Temple Israel and resident of Salisbury.

Catawba Free Concert: “Keys Across America” on Thursday, October 29, 6:30 pm in Keppel Auditorium by Mackenzie Melemed, Pianist. The program features American piano music in the celebration of the United States of American’s 250th Anniversary.

Western North Carolina Annual Meeting, October 3, 2026 – Summary Report

The WNCA Annual Meeting gathered at EveryAge Abernethy Laurels Retirement Community on Saturday, October 3, 2026, with 114 registrants. Reports were received from WNCA Board of Directors, Mark A. Thomas and WNCA-Associate Conference Minister, Rev. Dr. Tom Warren, Southern Conference Minister Rev. Dr. Edward Davis, after a Leave of Absence and Rev. Belinda Sledge, Minister of Finance and Church Consulting, who gave reports on SOC Youth Event in Charlotte, Called to Care Visits by SOC Staff, and re-organization of WNCA—Woman’s Fellowship in a video presentation. Two churches which requested full standing with WNCA were accepted by positive votes: Beloved Community in Charlotte and Shalom Santiago de Cuba (which is a mission partnership with UCC).

Church and Ministry Report: Six ministers were installed into their new churches this past year; two ordinations in WNCA ; three ministers accepted with dual standing; 5 candidates accepted for lay ministry standing; three transferred ministerial standing into WNCA; seven Members In Discernment; four retirements of ministers and seven deaths of ministers.

Officers were elected and installed for a two-year term, along with Board of Directors and Members of Church and Ministry. Phyllis Little was re-elected to another term on the Board of Directors.

Major actions included Budget for 2027 passed at \$24,750.00; establishment of a Emergency Contingency Fund for local church grants up to \$2500/local church with \$15,000.00 Fund. Each church is asked to receive a special offering for the Emergency Contingency Fund on the Fifth Sunday of January 2027 to raise \$5000 in 2027 to be added to the Fund. The Youth Ministry Fund was established with \$15,000 for local church to submit grant requests to stimulate youth ministry and outreach within the local church. SOC will request matching funds from the UCC for all additional funds that are raised for these two Funds in 2027.

The Keynote Presenter was Rev. Dr. Vergel L. Lattimore, President of Hood Theological Seminary, Salisbury. The title of his presentation was “Prophetic Advocacy in a Fragmented Season.”

A love offering was received for the Santiago Medical Clinic to purchase medial supplies and take to them in January 2027 by the Emergence Cuban Tour Members, led by Rev. Dr. Warren and his wife Kim Miller.

Appreciation was expressed to Mrs. Stephanie Leichmann, WNCA Office Manager and member of First UCC, for her preparation for a successful Annual Meeting and to Abernethy Laurels Retirement Community for hosting the meeting.

Submitted by Rev. Larry Bolick, Ministerial Delegate to Annual Meeting

A Tribute to Rev. James “Jim” Humphrey

Interim Pastor 2005–2007, First UCC

Shared at Memorial Service, October 10 at Holy Covenant UCC, Charlotte, by Rev. Larry Bolick

On behalf of the United Church of Christ and myself as an Annuitant Visitor of The United Church of Christ Pension Boards, we want to express our deep sympathy and love to Faye, her family and this congregation for the loss they have in their beloved The Reverend James Humphrey, husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and faithful member of this congregation and to the United Church of Christ. I first met Jim in May 1972 when I was a seminarian at Duke Divinity School and attended Southern Conference Ministers Retreat at Franklinton Center at Bricks. I had some wonderful conversations with Jim on this retreat, and he provided a compassionate, listening ear, a loving, welcoming spirit and heart as well as a mentorship and friendship that has with me my whole life. I thought to myself at that time and beyond for many years that he so impressed me that “Jim was the type of minister that I wanted to be and become,” which I would remind him of many times since our first meeting. Our ministries have crossed path at many ministers’ retreats since 1971 at John’s River Valley Camp, Elon Homes for Children, the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society at meetings and on historic bus trips, at Blowing Rock Conference Center on the Board and at many Retired Servants Retreats and at both Rowan and Catawba District Ministers and spouses Meetings, at WNCA and SOC Annual Meetings, and in most recent years in Jim and Faye’s lovely home as his Annuitant Visitor. One of the special treats we had at First UCC in Salisbury was several years ago when I invited Faye and Jim to come to Primetimes, our senior adult group, on Valentine’s Day and share their love story which they did most fondly. Jim had been an Interim Minister at First Church, Salisbury, from 2005-2007, and our folks loved him and Faye for their being with them for these interim ministry years. When I retired at EveryAge Abernethy Laurels Retirement Community as Director of Spiritual Life in August 2014, they were right there to celebrate with me. I am greatly indebted to God and them for their love, collegial support, encouragement and friendship. May our memories, love and appreciation for Jim continue. A life well lived and a ministry well shared.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

6th - Mitchell Caudle
9th - Brenda Bernhardt
12th - Ashley Baker
13th - Kristy Wood
19th - Maxx Rubino
21st - Landon Cord
22nd - Patty Artz
23rd - Addie Webster
26th - Dawn Isenberg

Rebecca & Nate Wrights - Anniversary October 14th

Any updates or corrections can be called into the church office or emailed to office@1stucc.org. Anniversaries can be added too.



5 Erin Isenberg
8 Daniel Artz
8 Catherine Shiemann
9 Martha Arey
10 Sandy Wagoner
27 Christian Shuping
10 Sandy Wagoner
27 Christian Shuping



For the family of Cory and Ginny Walser Johnson upon the death of Cory's mother, Connie Jean Johnson-Asero

For the family of Kimberly and David Nelson upon the death of Kimberly's grandmother, Marie Peele

For Rev. and Mrs. David Crook, whom Rev. Bolick visited on Thursday, September 30

For the family of Rev. James (Jim) Humphrey, First UCC Interim Minister, whose Celebration of Life was Saturday, October 10 at 2 pm at Holy Covenant UCC, Charlotte

For the wonderful Catawba Singers Fall Concert "American Tapestry" on October 4 at St. John's Lutheran Church (No recording available)

For the Anonymous Donor who has provided RHM "Food for Thought" Backpack Program for an entire year

The generous support of donations for The Blessing Pantry and donation of 52 lbs. to RHM Food Pantry in September

For the Celebration of Heritage Sunday and World Communion Sunday on October 4, 2026

For the 90th Celebration/Anniversary of John's River Valley Camp attended by Rev. Bolick, Lucy Carte, Ethan, Samatha, Ellie Chirico, Flo Peck, Catherine, Joshua, Sarah Schieman, Nate and Rebecca Wrights



IN OUR



Thoughts and Prayers

Emily Faust, Erin Isenberg, John Isenberg, John Isenberg Family, John Marion, Dan and Winnie Mikkelsen, Donna Odrosky, Glenda Shrewsbury, Joyce Trexler, Family of Betty Rose Whitty, (sister to Joyce Trexler & Aunt to Susan Trivette), Frances Wensil, Jeannette Yost, Bobbie Troutman

In Care Facilities

Mott Arey (Trinity Oaks Assisted Living), Shirley McNeil (Terra Bella), Barbara Waller (Oak Park)

In Military Service

Tyler Bernhardt (son of Jeff & Lynn Bernhardt)

Brendan Johnson (son of Ginny Walser Johnson)

Friends and Family of the Congregation

Desiree Artz, Sally Cline Blossey, Julian Clark (Robert Propst's husband), Rev. David Crook, Gerri D. Crummett (Donna Odrosky's sister, Maggie Derby (Jim Weaver's great granddaughter), Emily Hauze (Linda Hauze's daughter-in-law), Faye Humphrey, Renee Leonard (John Marion's sister), Sarah Locklear, Eddie Meeker, Dan Morngan, Dan Pardue (John Marion's cousin), Cindy Shepherd (Kimberly Nelson's mother), Pat Shoe (Patty Shuping's mother), Amber Smith (Rhonda Smith's daughter-in-law), Diane Reavis Smith, Bruce South (Rhonda Smith's friend), Alonzo Surratt and his sister Ava Mann, Tom Troutman (Bobbie Troutman's nephew), Waylon Ward (Susan Ward's husband), Rev. Misty Poston-York



207 West Horah Street
Salisbury, NC 28144
www.1stucc.org

TO WATCH ONLINE:

[Youtube.com/@1stuccsalisbury](https://www.youtube.com/@1stuccsalisbury)